

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

That my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name:

That I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

WATER SOFTENER MANIFOLD RETAINER ASSEMBLY

the specification of which
(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as
Application Serial No.
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

That I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

That I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

That I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 and §172 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)**Priority Claimed**

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| _____ (Number) | _____ (Country) | _____ (Day/Month/Year) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No |
| _____ (Number) | _____ (Country) | _____ (Day/Month/Year) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No |
| _____ (Number) | _____ Country) | _____ (Day/Month/Year) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No |

That I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

United States Application(s)

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| _____ (Appl. Ser.No.) | _____ (Filing Date) | _____ (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned) |
| _____ (Appl. Ser.No.) | _____ (Filing Date) | _____ (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned) |

That all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD., Suite 2500, 300 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Telephone No. (312) 360-0080:

Customer No. 24978

| <u>Attorney</u> | <u>Reg. No.</u> | <u>Attorney</u> | <u>Reg. No.</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Roger D. Greer | 26,174 | Carole A. Mickelson | 30,778 |
| Patrick G. Burns | 29,367 | Brittany C. MacDonald | 44,159 |
| Lawrence J. Crain | 31,497 | Arik B. Ranson | 43,874 |
| Steven P. Fallon | 35,132 | Thomas R. Fitzsimons | 40,607 |
| Paul G. Juettner | 30,270 | Josh Snider | 47,954 |
| Thomas R. Juettner | 16,158 | Joe Fox | 41,760 |
| James K. Folker | 37,538 | Philip M. Kolehmainen | 22,992 |
| Laura R. Wanek | 53,737 | Charles C. Claunch | 51,221 |

I hereby grant the above-named attorneys the right to insert the Application Serial Number in the appropriate place on this document, once such number has been assigned from the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

Full name of sole or one
joint inventor:

Keith Peltason

Inventor's signature:

Keith Peltason

Date:

9/5/03

Residence and Post Office
Address

43 Wisteria Lane, Apt. 3731

Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

Citizenship:

United States

Full name of sole or one
joint inventor:

Lonnie Webb

Inventor's signature:

Lonnie Webb

Date:

9/5/03

Residence and Post Office
Address:

4995 Bayfield Drive

Waterford, Wisconsin 53185

Citizenship:

United States

Address for Correspondence:

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.
Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Customer No. 24978

ORDINATION FORM COVER SHEET PATENTS ONLY

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies)

Keith Peltason
Lonnie Webb

Additional name(s) of conveying party (ies) attached? () Yes (X) No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- (X) Assignment () Merger
() Security Agreement () Change of Name
() Other _____

Execution Date: September 5, 2003

2. Name and address of receiving party (ies)

Name: USF Consumer & Commercial
WaterGroup, Inc.

Internal Address:

Street Address: One Culligan Parkway
Northbrook, Illinois 60062

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached: () Yes (X) No

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: September 5, 2003

A. Patent Application No.(s)

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? () Yes (X) No.

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Lawrence J. Crain
Greer, Burns & Crain, Ltd.

Internal Address: 300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached: () Yes (X) No

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$ 40.00

(X) Enclosed

(X) Authorized to be charged to deposit account only in
the event proper payment is not enclosed.

8. Deposit account number:

07-2069

(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Lawrence J. Crain
Name of Person Signing

Signature

September 8, 2003
Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 4

0308.67558

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:
Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Assignments
Washington, D.C. 20231

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, Keith Peltason, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 43 Wisteria Lane, Apt. 3731, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173 and Lonnie Webb, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 4995 Bayfield Drive, Waterford, Wisconsin 53185, hereinafter collectively referred to as ASSIGNOR, has invented and owns a certain invention entitled:

WATER SOFTENER MANIFOLD RETAINER ASSEMBLY

for which application for Letters Patent of the United States was executed on even date; receiving Serial No. _____ and

WHEREAS, USF Consumer & Commercial WaterGroup, Inc., a corporation of Delaware, having a principal place of business at One Culligan Parkway, Northbrook, Illinois 60062; hereinafter referred to as ASSIGNEE, is desirous of acquiring the entire interest in, to and under said invention and the United States Letters Patent to be obtained therefor:

NOW, THEREFORE, TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that in consideration of the payment by ASSIGNEE TO ASSIGNOR of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and for other good and valuable consideration, ASSIGNOR hereby sell, assign and transfer to ASSIGNEE the full and exclusive right, title and interest to said invention and all Letters Patent of the United States to be obtained therefor on said application or any continuation, division, renewal, substitute or reissue thereof for the full term or terms for which the same may be granted.

ASSIGNOR also assign all of its rights, title and interest in and to said invention in all foreign countries, and all applications for Letters Patent which may evolve therefrom, including the right to claim International Convention priority.

ASSIGNOR hereby covenants that no assignment, sale, agreement or encumbrance has been or will be made or entered into which would conflict with this assignment and sale.

ASSIGNOR further covenant that ASSIGNEE will, upon its request, be provided promptly with all pertinent facts and documents relating to said application, said

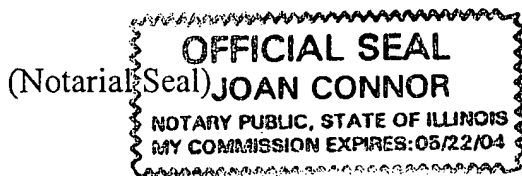
invention and said Letters Patent as may be known and accessible to ASSIGNOR and ASSIGNORS will testify as to the same in any interference or litigation related thereto and will promptly execute and deliver to ASSIGNEE or its legal representative any and all papers, instruments or affidavits required to apply for, obtain, maintain and enforce said application, said invention and said Letters Patent which may be necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes hereof.

Date 9/5/03

Keith Peltason
Keith Peltason

State of ILLINOIS)
) ss:
County of COOK)

I hereby certify that Keith Peltason before me personally appeared and acknowledged that the foregoing Assignment was duly signed, sealed and delivered by him as his free and voluntary act on this 5TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2003.



Joan Connor
Notary Public - My Commission

Expires: MAY 22, 2004

Date 9/5/03

Lonnie Webb
Lonnie Webb

State of ILLINOIS)
) ss:
County of COOK)

I hereby certify that Lonnie Webb before me personally appeared and acknowledged that the foregoing Assignment was duly signed, sealed and delivered by him as his free and voluntary act on this 5TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2003.



Joan Connor
Notary Public - My Commission

Expires: MAY 22, 2004

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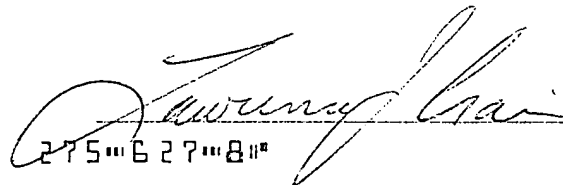
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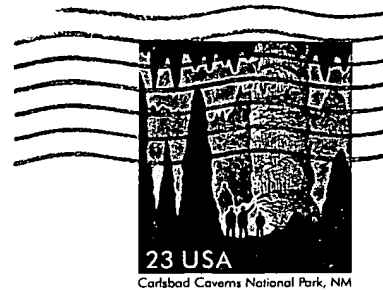
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